

## Salford Priors Parish Council

The One Hundredth and Fifteenth Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. April 2009 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Parish Councillors K.A.James (Chairman), A.W.Wolfe, Mrs R.M.Pane, D.C.Penn, R.J.A.Francis, and M.Myers, County Councillors P.Barnes and N.Knapman, Alcester District Councillor S.Juned, Chairman of Bidford Parish Council J.Kealey, the Clerk, Mr M.J. Philpott, and forty-five parishioners.

**Apologies for absence** were received from District Councillors B.W.Slaughter, and D. Pemberton, Parish Councillor J.Stedman, Mr. E.Mitchell, Mr. B.Shadwell, and Mr & Mrs J. Seville.

**The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>. April 2007 had been circulated and were taken as read. There were no corrections and they were accepted as a true record.

**New recycling and refuse collection arrangements:** The Chairman introduced Mr Robert Weeks, Head of Environment, Stratford on Avon District Council, to speak about new arrangements for collecting refuse in the parish.

Mr Weeks explained the reasons for introducing a new system including the desire of residents to be able to recycle more, the end of landfill as an option, the escalating cost of landfill, and the high costs of the previous service. The system introduced the previous year was already showing a huge increase in recycling so that the Council was now nearing the levels achieved by the very top recycling authorities. The blue bins allowed a wide range of materials to be recycled including tetrapak cartons, plastic bottles, and card. There was little contamination and the permanent facilities to process the mixed recyclables were nearly complete. Starting in April, the next phase of an alternate weekly collection for residual waste and for green waste and recyclables had now been introduced. However, Mr Weeks explained that food waste could be disposed every week by including it in the green waste bin on the weeks when the residual waste was not collected. The food waste could be wrapped in newspaper and there was no need to purchase bio-degradable bags. Mr Weeks said that a tolerant approach had been taken and residents had responded well. However, as the system developed side waste would not be collected and bin lids had to be fully closed.

The Chairman opened the meeting to questions. Mr Weeks was asked about the arrangements for large families and he said that there was some flexibility to allow additional bins. Mr Gascoigne asked if incineration had been considered and Mr Weeks said it was under review by the County Council. The question of over-packaging by supermarkets was raised and Mr Weeks said that although the waste industry and the Local Government Association did put pressure on the government the supermarkets were in reality very powerful. Cllr. Mrs Juned referred to work being done by Advantage West Midlands to reduce waste in order to make the region the first to aim for zero waste.

Mr Bradfield asked for clarification on the types of plastic that could be recycled and was told that anything "bottle-shaped" was acceptable. A suggestion was made that compost from the green waste collection should be made available as is the case elsewhere and Mr Weeks said this would be looked into by the County Council. Mrs Band and Mrs Dare asked about specific needs for additional bins and Mr Weeks promised to look into these requests personally. Finally, a resident congratulated the District Council on a good service.

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### **Warwickshire County Council, Minerals Core Strategy, Revised Spatial Options Report**

The Chairman introduced the report by giving details of the four sites identified in the parish of Salford Priors, namely, two sites at Broom between the river Arrow and the A46; a site north of Broom Lane adjacent to the existing workings at Marsh Farm; and a site at Berry Coppice, Dunnington. He also explained that two previously identified sites at Abbots Salford and at Marriage Hill, Bidford were also included in the plan. The Chairman said that the need for gravel extraction arose mainly from the proposals for more housing growth in the area. He said that the consultation was due to expire on 8<sup>th</sup> May, this had been extended after protests from residents from the original date of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. In respect of the issues the Chairman said these had been set out in the "Sand & Gravel News" publication circulated to all residents. They were, need, use of recycled aggregates, definition of extensions, buffer zones, restoration proposals, and when "enough was enough".

Cllr. Barnes was concerned that aftercare proposals should be decided at the earliest stage. He also said that it would be unsustainable to use gravel from the area for the eco-town which was over 27 miles away by road. Even though the Marsh Farm permission had a 40 year period for final restoration any new sites would have quite different timescales attached to any consent.

The Chairman concluded by saying that the Parish Council was preparing a very professional and full response and this would be sent to the County during the following week.

### **Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. K A James, made a very full presentation of the work of the Council over the previous year. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

### **Open Forum**

On the invitation of the Chairman, Cllrs. Peter Barnes and Nina Knapman (County Council); Susan Juned (District Council, Alcester); and Joy Kealey, (Chairman, Bidford PC); joined the Parish Councillors for the Open Forum.

Mr J Gascoigne said he was very concerned about the after-use of quarries. Cllr. Barnes said that owners would be looking for profitable leisure uses but these would not be appropriate in the area. Cllr. Knapman said that the cumulative effect was a major issue. Cllr. Juned said that the history of Marsh Farm did not give confidence and that the standards set by DEFRA were not being complied with. Mr Gascoigne asked if time limits for restoration were enforceable and was informed that the enforcing authority was Warwickshire CC. Cllr. James said that although the County might grant consent for a lake the District Council was responsible for granting permission for the use of the lake.

Mr Wright asked about the enormous expansion of poly tunnels and whether there were any controls. The Chairman said that it was considered that they were a blot on the landscape and relevant case law only came into being some 18 months ago. They blocked footpaths and the District Council was currently examining actions it could take. There was also an issue with the old plastic and Cllr. Juned said there were no economic means of recycling it.

A question was asked about restrictions on excavations close to rivers. The Chairman said that the Environment Agency would advise in these situations but the River Arrow was a very sensitive river with a large change in level when in flood.

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The use of recycled aggregates was raised and Cllr. Juned said that the government could define the amount of recycled aggregates that could be used in construction by setting specifications accordingly.

Mr Bradfield said that the new speed limit through Abbots Salford was not being complied with. Cllr. Barnes said that a 7 per cent reduction had been achieved but the limit was not enforceable until all the works had been completed and the delay was due to lack of an electrical supply by EON UK. The Chairman said that the police had made speed checks in School Road and within 35 minutes 6 cautions had been raised all being residents of Salford Priors.

Mr Beamish asked if WCC would send an acknowledgement for letters of objection sent in respect of Berry Coppice and the Chairman said they had a duty to do so. Mrs Dare asked if there was anything else residents could do to object to the gravel proposals such as a demonstration. The Chairman said that as all the land in question was owned by the Ragley Estate such action would be very difficult.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.49 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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